

Strategic Initiatives for the Department of Law Enforcement

January-June 2024



MISSION STATEMENT

With a commitment to personal and professional excellence, we will accept the special stewardship entrusted to us to protect and preserve the natural splendor of the forests of Cook County for current and future generations. We will provide the best possible police protection, serve with honor and integrity, and treat every person with respect, dignity and compassion. We will strive each day to make all Forest Preserves of Cook County properties safe and inviting havens to be enjoyed for recreation, pleasure and education.





SHARED PRINCIPLES

6. We endorse the values inherent in community policing, which includes community partnerships involving law enforcement, engagement of police officers with residents outside of interaction specific to enforcement of laws, and problem-solving that is collaborative, not one-sided.



6 Goals of the Strategic Initiatives:

- Build trust and legitimacy with the community
- Develop clear and comprehensive policies
- Promote positive organizational change and better communication across ranks
- Ensure Officers have the technology, tools and equipment the need to do their jobs and to keep safe
- Provide training and opportunities for advancement to all personnel throughout their careers
- Develop strategies to recruit officers who can succeed and grow at the Forest Preserves

Initiatives that we will continually perform

We continually review and update policies based upon best practices nationwide. We updated our Standards of Conduct to include prohibitions on criminal and biased organizations.

Our polices and crime statistics were updated and posted again in March 2024 and include the 2023 results. The policies and statistics can be found on the Forest Preserves website under the Department of Law Enforcement landing page.





Initiatives that we will continually perform

We are continuing our recruitment efforts, such as recently attending job fairs with Human Resources at different places such as this one at St. Sabina Church in Chicago.

We have a great working relationship with the Communications Department. They assist us in passing along important information to the public when applicable.

We continue to meet with all stakeholders for large scale events as we are entering the summer season and do after action reviews of what worked and what could be improved.

Initiatives that we will continually perform

We encourage our members to take advantage of training and participate in promotional processes. Our detectives and officers have been registered for several upcoming NEMRT training opportunities. 90% of the department are CIT trained.

We continually monitor ILETSB for annual training mandates and make sure all our staff are compliant with the training. Training needs and trends continually evolve, and we will always be on the look out for opportunities to improve.

We are working on obtaining an UAS (Unmanned Aerial System) for search and rescue efforts and are hoping to get this program started.

We have an active RFP out to purchase a new (RMS) digital records management system which would also include a new inventory system to make the Department more efficient.





Initiatives that we will continually perform

We have a tentative agreement with the Sergeants collective bargaining and once it is approved, we will promote 4 new Sergeants and then another Sergeant Exam will be offered this year.

In 2023 we hired 3 Commanders and 3 Deputy Commanders.

We have received a grant from DEMRS to purchase radios, this will cover half of the radios we need to replace as our current ones are at the end of their life expectancy.

We have been able to ensure all officers working have access to an MDT (mobile data terminal) in the patrol vehicle in order to complete their reports.

Department Demographics

[illegible]

2024 Department Staff Totals

	PRESENT	BUDGETED	DEFICIT	
CHIEFS	3	3	0	
OFFICERS	66	92	26	
SERGEANTS	10	18	8	
DEPUTY COMMANDERS	4	5	1	
COMMANDERS	3	3	0	
CIVILIANS	10	12	2	
EPU	5	7	2	
TOTAL	101	140	39	

